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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3214

July 24, 2010

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Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing on behalf of the millions of New Yorkers who have been and may be negatively affected by retransmission consent disputes between local broadcast stations and multichannel video programming distributors. Specifically, cable operators and broadcasters in New York are engaged in complex negotiations to renew existing retransmission consent agreements, some of which are scheduled to expire this summer.

If these agreements are not renewed, important programming for many New Yorkers could be dramatically affected. It is not fair to punish consumers for the failure of these companies to reach an agreement, which is why I urge you to take whatever steps are necessary to protect consumers, including my constituents, from losing any programming as a result of these negotiations. Finally, I also encourage the Commission to move as quickly as possible to update its retransmission consent rules to ensure that consumers will be protected during future renewal negotiations.

Thank you for your immediate attention to the retransmission consent issue. If I may be of assistance, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

MB
Retransmission
PV
JC
1284



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter concerning the potential negative impact of retransmission consent disputes on your constituents. I share your concern about possible service interruptions caused by stalled negotiations between local broadcast television stations and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs). Consumers should not bear the brunt of corporate negotiation problems.

As you may know, a coalition representing a number of MVPDs and public interest groups submitted a *Petition for Rulemaking* to reform the retransmission consent rules. The *Petition* asks that the Commission adopt new mechanisms for mandatory arbitration when MVPDs and broadcasters fail to reach retransmission consent agreements, and require continued carriage of broadcast signals during the negotiation or dispute resolution process. The *Petition* also requests the adoption of rules to change the practice of tying broadcast programming to the carriage of nonbroadcast services.

The Commission's Media Bureau issued a *Public Notice* inviting comment on the issues and proposals discussed in the *Petition*. The comment period recently closed and the Bureau is reviewing the record compiled in the proceeding to develop recommendations for Commission consideration. Given the importance of this matter to a wide range of consumers, we intend to treat this matter seriously.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Julius Genachowski